



EmployeeUPDATE

Our Mission: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with its partners, protects the health and safety of all North Carolinians and provides essential human services.

A monthly publication for employees of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Job placements improved for workers with disabilities

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services increased the number of North Carolinians it assisted with finding jobs last year by seven percent over the year before.

In the 12 months ending June 30, the division assisted 6,716 people with disabilities in achieving their employment objectives. That's compared to 6,282 job placements during the preceding year.

"Governor Perdue's top priority is getting people back to work," said Division Director Linda Harrington. "That's our central mission, providing to all our consumers the needed counseling, training, education or other services to get them ready to work. We can then match them up with businesses' needs, saving the employer time and money."

Besides pre-screening, Harrington says there are other factors that give DVRS's



applicants an edge with prospective employers:

- Services "stay on the job." Agency professionals provide continuing, no-cost follow-up consultation to make sure the employee and job remain a good match.
- The agency compensates employers for providing their referral on-the-job-training. At training's end, the employer has the option to hire the trainee as a regular employee.

- There are tax incentives for hiring people with disabilities and for adapting the workplace to accommodate a new employee's specific disability. National data shows that often no accommodations are required in these situations. When required, accommodations can usually be met at minimal or no cost.

According to the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, individuals, on average, "pay back" the cost of their services through taxes in two to four years of employment. Further, employment of these individuals generates savings in the cost of no-longer-needed benefits.

Says Harrington: "We serve every county in North Carolina. For every employer, we have a local office not very far away." ■

— Ed Bristol,
DVRS Marketing Director

INSIDE TOP FEATURES

Jallie Daughtry's story	➡ Pages 2-3
New State Lab/OCME facility	➡ Page 4
DHHS Teams in Charlotte for DNC.....	➡ Pages 5-6

State Facilities offer holiday crafts.....	➡ Pages 7-8
Cyber Security Month	➡ Page 9
DHHS launches SECC campaign	➡ Page 10
Accolades	➡ Pages 14-15

Disability doesn't affect optimistic spirit



Jallie Daughtry

Last month, the Daily Reflector of Greenville featured a self-written article about Jallie Daughtry. Ms. Daughtry works with two VR counselors in the Greenville area as a processing assistant for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

(Reprinted with permission from the Greenville Daily Reflector)

I really don't remember being able to walk. I had a spinal cord virus when I was 3 years old and one day I was just sitting on the floor and couldn't get up. My mother was trying to get the kids out of the house so

that she and my grandmother could work in the kitchen. She kept saying, "Jallie, get outside" until she realized something was wrong. I couldn't move.

This happened in the 1950s, so our family doctor didn't have any idea what was wrong - but he did know that I was paralyzed from the neck down. My mother didn't drive and my dad farmed with his father. The only thing anyone knew to do was to send me to a hospital, even though I had no therapy of any type or schooling. I stayed there until I was old enough to go to the first grade.

I walked with crutches in sort of a swinging motion - swing your legs, stop and then do it again. The principal at the school didn't want to let me in. He said they couldn't accommodate me. There was a teacher, Mrs. Glenn, at the school who started her own class for kids with mental and physical disabilities ... at Graham Elementary School. The special needs class couldn't go out on the playground or into the cafeteria. However, the teacher taught crafts and we sang a lot. I do remember, though, that the teacher and her husband really made efforts to communicate with everyone that was in the class.

We moved a lot when I was growing up, so after this positive school experience we moved back to Clinton where I was told again that I couldn't attend school. The principal told my mother that I would have to go to a school for the mentally handicapped.

After Mom refused to back down, the principal gave in with the restriction that I couldn't go outside on the playground. Many kids were told they couldn't play with me, although some of them actually took turns staying inside during recess to do just that.

Dad got laid off again so we moved back to Burlington. When I reached the fourth grade I had to go back to the hospital. This time I was at Gastonia Orthopedic Hospital for three years. I had developed sclerosis of the spine. My spine was replaced with a rod and I spent three years in a body cast. Around the same time I had surgery on my legs because they were turning in.

My older sister became my caregiver and helped me through the seventh and eighth grades. She graduated, however, so through grants from Rotary I was able to stay home for four years of high school. Southern Bell set up an intercom system for me so that I could hear the teachers. I was still using braces and crutches and had a lot of help from friends.

The principal at the high school informed me that I wouldn't be able to attend graduation. He told me that he would send me my diploma in the mail. This is the first time I remember really standing up for myself and saying no! I fought and other students got behind my cause. The principal gave in and the class president actually carried me across the stage!

My sister got married, so my 'support' was gone when I started going to Sampson Community College. I had to wait, sometimes two hours or more, for someone to pick me up when my classes were over.

continued on page 3

Disability continued from page 2

I eventually met another person with a disability on campus who had an accessible van, which was pretty unusual at that time. He would give me rides back and forth to campus. It was great.

I received my associate's degree in secretarial work from Sampson Community College in 1979. I was 25 and decided I wanted to learn to drive. I took two weeks of driver's education paid by Vocational Rehabilitation, and my parents said they would make the down-payment on a vehicle. I wanted a 1980 Buick Regal, which only had two doors.

I was still living at home with my parents and working with them. My family was so close. Things happen, though, and one weekend, when my parents went to Wilmington to winterize their boat, I never saw them again. Their Winnebago was hit by a truck on their way back home and both of them died.

I moved in with my pastor and his wife and then moved in with my sister. At this time, I decided that I wanted to work but had no idea how a person with a disability went about finding a job. My sister suggested Employment Security and, sure enough, that was where I found my first opportunity as a second shift data entry person for Lab Corps. After one year, I moved to first shift and purchased my first home. I learned to cook and was sort of adopted by an elderly couple who were neighbors.

Things were good and pretty stable until I found out that my lawyer had embezzled my trust fund. Then the lab I worked for was purchased by another company. I was offered a secretarial position with the new company, but I wasn't happy. I was also sick a lot with kidney stones. I stayed out of work for three weeks at one time and had no insurance.

I moved to Raleigh and worked for the Independent Rehab Program. As I moved around, I always stayed positive and hopeful. Eventually, I found out about a job in Greenville with the same program. It was part clerical and part field work, so I moved to Greenville, bought an apartment and have been here since 1988. Recently, I made a lateral move at my job to become an assistant to two counselors.

I was introduced to a man by my second cousin at a church fellowship. It took a while for me to realize that this guy really liked me. We got married two years ago. We like to wheelchair dance and go fishing. I like to play wheelchair tennis.

My real passion is helping others who have disabilities. I help with fundraisers and offer people encouragement. I am usually behind the scenes, though. I love to smile. My motto for life is, "Tomorrow is always fresh!" ■

— Jallie Daughtry

Disabled employees contribute to DHHS mission, success

In 1988, Congress established that each October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The purpose of NDEAM is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

DHHS management team believes that a strong workforce is one that is inclusive of the skills and talents of all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, and applauds their contributions to the agency's success and mission, which also entails providing critical support and services to North Carolinians with disabilities.

More information relating to NDEAM can be found on the Office of State Personnel's website at <http://www.osp.state.nc.us/Guide/EEOS/Observances/olderworkers.htm> ■

— Antonio Cruz,
DHHS EEO Director

New State Lab, Chief Medical Examiner's Office facility opens

Gov. Bev Perdue joined numerous state officials and dignitaries at the ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 8 for the new facility that will house the State Laboratory of Public Health and Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The building is on District Drive in Raleigh, but is visible from Wade Avenue, just outside the beltline and across from the PNC Arena.

According to Dr. Lou Turner, acting laboratory director, bringing the State Lab and the Office of the Chief Medical

Examiner (OCME) together for the first time will offer opportunities for cross-training staff and increasing efficiencies through consolidating information technology and stockroom operations.

"After almost 40 years, we have really outgrown the Bath Building and are excited about being in a state-of-the-art facility with more space to serve the needs of the people of North Carolina," Turner said. "Our newborn screening space, for example, enables us to process twice as many tests at a time so physicians and parents can get

those important results sooner. And our autopsy suite in the new building is double the size of our current facility at UNC."

Following the ribbon cutting, the OCME will relocate from Chapel Hill and different labs will move in stages to the new facility to avoid lengthy down time. Turner anticipates everyone to be in place by late December. ■

— Julie Henry, DHHS Public Affairs

Facts about the new State Lab/OCME Facility

Location: 4312 District Drive, Raleigh

Size: 222,000 sq ft

Staff: 270 combined

- **State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH)** handles more than 1 million specimen/samples each year
- **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)** performs 1,500 autopsies each year
- **SLPH** generates more than 6 million test results annually



— Photos by Julie Henry

EMS, Public Health, Radiation Protection provide support services at DNC-Charlotte

DHHS agencies came together in September following months of planning, training and coordinating to provide standby public health, emergency medical support and protection from possible radiation exposure when thousands of delegates attended the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte.

Emergency medical services crews from across North Carolina coordinated with the U.S. Secret Service and other federal, state and local agencies to participate in a six-day drill that served as a shake-down for equipment and protocols.

Participants represented response teams from all eight trauma regions in the state. The State Medical Response System moved components of the National Mobile Disaster Hospital (MDH) from a western North Carolina storage facility to a secured area near the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police and Fire Training Academy on the south side of the city.

“This was an opportunity for us to test all the healthcare preparedness capabilities – personnel and equipment – that would be called up in the event of a disaster,” said Regina Godette-Crawford, chief of the Office of Emergency Medical Services. “We



This aerial photo shows the configuration of the Mobile Disaster Hospital on the ground in south Charlotte. Photo courtesy of Charlotte Fire Department



(Left to right) Jeff Peterson, operations manager for health care preparedness response and recovery, Jim Morris, western regional specialist for OEMS and Chief Regina Godette-Crawford work on contingencies during the drill in Charlotte.
– Photo by Jim Jones

coordinated with our federal, state and local partners, and ran an operation that could have provided hospital care for up to 49 patients.”

The Division of Public Health’s Preparedness & Response Branch, led by

Dr. Julie Casani, deployed a team of specialists from various DPH agencies and coordinated with Homeland Security to provide round-the-clock coverage at a Public Health Coordination Center that worked alongside state EMS coordinators at a Joint Health and Medical Operations Center, an All-Hazards Center and a Multi-Agency Coordination Center.

In all, 43 staff members from Public Health participating in the deployment, including the State Laboratory of Public Health, Environmental Health Services Food Protection Program, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, and the Communicable Disease Branch.

Radiation Protection Section staff members mingled among the convention crowd, working undercover. Clothed to pass as convention goers, RPS teams used sensitive equipment to monitor people and the things they carried for signs of possible trouble along the approaches to the convention checkpoints and elsewhere.

continued on page 6

DNC continued from page 5

Roles for some of the responders included standby duty for possible event response; roving teams to check for medical issues among convention goers at pedestrian watering stations and responder aide and rehabilitation stations. There were six ambulance task forces, each with five ambulances, and at least one ambulance bus to transport up to 20 patients.

“Prepare for the worst. Hope for the best,” OEMS Chief Godette-Crawford said. “We were there with many of our most qualified people. We were grateful for the opportunity to serve, and more grateful that nothing happened.” ■

— *Jim Jones, DHHS Public Affairs*



Jeff Peterson, center, and Mary Beth Skarote, health care preparedness response and recovery manager, right, consult with team members during drill in Charlotte on Sept. 5



Public Health Preparedness & Response team, left to right, Wendy Boggs, Larry Michael, Julie Casani, Meghan Prewett, Aaron Fleischauer, Stephanie Griesse, Dhara Patel and Alex Huffman.

Emergency Medical Services staff and support, including N.C. Baptist Men (yellow shirts) take time out for a group photograph.

— Photos by Jim Jones



State operated facilities showcase resident artisans' handiwork

If you are beginning to think about holiday gift giving, consider doing some of your shopping at one of the DHHS state operated facilities' gift and craft stores. The crafts, made by residents and staff, vary from furniture, pottery and hand-painted crafts to weaving and food products. Sales proceeds go back into the vocational programs at each facility. On these two pages are a glimpse of some of the products and information on how to find them.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN CRAFTS

South Mountain Crafts opened in 1980 as an outgrowth of the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center's Vocational Enrichment Program. The program offers a creative, innovative and entrepreneurial approach to providing work opportunities for the people living at the Riddle Center.

The South Mountain Crafts Gallery offers a variety of beautiful, one-of-a-kind crafts for sale including solid-wood furniture, pottery, hand-made soaps, bird houses, jewelry, pillows, and loom-woven rugs. The gallery always contains seasonal and holiday crafts for gift giving and home decorating. In addition to the craft gallery, South Mountain Crafts operates several greenhouses which produce beautiful, flowering annuals, seasonal blooms such as poinsettias and mums, and delicious summer vegetables.

New Location: 501 Enola Road, Morganton (adjacent to Riddle Center grounds)

Hours: M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During December, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For additional information, please call Jarrod Bailey at 828/433-2607

Since late summer, the residents at the Riddle Center have been making Christmas crafts including table decorations, ornaments, wreaths and gifts.



VE ORIGINALS

VE Originals, located on the campus of Murdoch Developmental Center within Vocational Enterprises, offers a variety of craft products for all your gift giving needs. Gift ideas include bird houses, garden gongs, flower pots, wreaths, flower arrangements and decorative garden stones and pavers, as well as cookbooks. We also have crafts made out of recycled wine bottles, such as cheese trays, spoon rests, soap dispensers and olive oil bottles. Our Christmas Corner offers mini decorated trees, wreaths, flower arrangements and a huge variety of handmade ornaments.

Location: 1600 East C. Street in Butner.

Hours: M-F 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. and 1- 4 p.m.

Phone orders may be placed at 919-575-1586

College fans can share their team spirit with novelty items available at VE Originals on the campus of Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner.



Artisans' Handiwork continued from page 7

THE BALLOON COMPANY

The Balloon Company at Caswell Corner offers shoppers an eclectic and unique selection of trendy, hand-crafted items produced by individuals in the crafting work programs at Caswell Developmental Center. As our name implies, we offer a large selection of mylar and latex balloons to fit any celebration, large or small. The Garden Center provides our signature wrapped plants in a variety of size and color combinations for every occasion as well as dish gardens, hanging baskets, flowering and potted plants. We also rent large, live ferns for any occasion!

Location: 1300 Hull Road, Kinston
Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Call 252-208-3598 for the Balloon Company and
252-208-3608 for the Garden Center



Some popular items include hand-painted Whimsical Welcome wreaths, Knotty Key Keepers, Hot Dot birdhouses, flower pots, gift bags, decorative garden shovels, and seasonal crafts.



O'BERRY'S LOG CABIN AND BERRY TOWNE CRAFT PRODUCTS

When you visit the cabin on the corner of O'Berry Road and Old Smithfield Road in Goldsboro, often you will be greeted by one of our residents working as a special assistant sales clerk. On occasion, the individuals who craft these products are present to proudly share their work with the customers who visit. The personal satisfaction and the sense of accomplishment are readily apparent in their faces.

The wide variety of products found in our log cabin originate in the studios that make up Berry Towne Crafts. Each day our individuals can be found happily working alongside health care technicians who guide them as they hand throw native North Carolina clay on the potter's wheel or mix organic and natural ingredients to create By Nature Soap products, our personal brand of high quality handmade soaps, lotions, air freshener sprays, and balms. Other Artisan areas include woodworking studios, a custom printing shop specializing in note pads, a greenhouse, and handmade arts and crafts. In our specialty foods program, individuals prepare a full line of snack foods built around fresh local pecans and peanuts under the brand 'The Old Log Cabin Mercantile.'

Location: 400 Old Smithfield Road, Goldsboro
Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Phone: 919-581-4580
www.berrytownecrafts.com (online store) ■

Berry Towne Craft products are sold from a rustic log cabin store on the center's grounds in Goldsboro and in a variety of specialty stores throughout North Carolina and other states.



– Julie Henry, DHHS Public Affairs

Cyber Security Awareness Month

October 2012 marks the ninth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month. In today's world we depend on various technologies that are available to us to connect to the world via the Internet. Not only do we use the Internet to stay connected, informed, and involved, but we rely on it for all of our day-to-day needs. We can submit taxes online, bank online, pay bills online, research homework assignments and access government services.

DHHS uses the Internet as well to perform various functions to serve the citizens of North Carolina. Through the Internet we connect, talk, and chat live with our associates.

Yet, for all of its advantages, increased connectivity brings increased risk – thus making cyber security one of our country's most important national security priorities. As a member of the department's workforce you may handle a lot of confidential data that has been provided by citizens, federal partners, private companies and other state agencies as well.

The department serves the citizens from birth to end of life in some fashion, and it is our responsibility to safeguard the data that has been entrusted to us. Being safe and more secure online is a shared responsibility. The DHHS Privacy and Security Office (PSO) requests each of you to promote cyber security awareness throughout the department.

In addition, our department is mandated to follow various federal and state requirements that make us more vigilant on cyber security. Protecting critical infrastructure and cyberspace – including the systems and networks that support the department – requires all of us working together. Each one of us has a role to play in protecting against cyber threats.

The department is committed to creating a safe and resilient cyber environment. The PSO works with all divisions and offices to help secure their networks and applications by conducting risk assessments and developing plans to mitigate risks. The department values the sharing of information with public and private sectors, however we must collect, use, and share information consistent with constitutional rights, privacy and security principles, having them embedded into our systems. Information can be crucial in preventing fraud and delivering the correct benefits to our citizens.



Having a PSO within the department ensures privacy and security concerns are addressed from the very beginning and that we are formulating programs and policies consistent with the law. We must take into consideration such concerns as what information is collected, who gets to use it, and how long it is kept. Federal and state laws require the department to notify the public when we collect or maintain personal information in a system of records. This process is built on transparency, accountability, and security.

Contact the Privacy and Security Office today to find out more about cyber security and what you can do to help us create a safe and secure environment for all the department's employees, systems, applications, and functions. ■

– Pyreddy Reddy,
Chief Information Security Officer

Delia responds to employee questions, concerns

Secretary Al Delia responded to questions and comments submitted from employees around the state via email during an online “dialogue with employees” on Sept. 26.

Topics included a wide array of issues, ranging from employee harassment, the performance rating scale, the future of the Office of Minority Health, consolidation of Raleigh offices into a single location, to differentials between how long it takes some divisions to reimburse for business related expenses and the future of the Dix property.

For those unable to watch or access the webcast and who would like to hear his responses, the webcast was recorded by NCSU. When DHHS receives a final-closed captioned copy from NCSU, it will be uploaded onto the DHHS web site later this month. ■



Al Delia

– Sandra K. Trivett, DHHS Special Projects

SECC launches 2012 campaign

The DHHS SECC kick-off on Sept. 27 in Raleigh was a huge success! Feed-back from 25 charities on display, as well as nearly 200 employees who enjoyed a free, catered breakfast courtesy of the State Employees Credit Union Foundation, was positive.

Food was provided by Costco. Balloons, table cloths, colorful displays and a beautiful fall day added to the relaxed, informative and fun event.

Secretary Al Delia welcomed everyone and thanked them for their good work

for DHHS and for the historically generous support of SECC charities. He reminded all that this year’s goal is to increase participation over last year’s 12 percent. “Surely we can top that to reach 15 or even 20 percent participation in this year’s campaign,” he said.

Seventy-four attendees entered the charity bingo game by visiting all of the displays and marking a flyer when they completed a row, line or diago-

nal. Later in the day, 14 names were drawn and winners picked up prizes from Sandra Trivett, the DHHS SECC department executive for this year’s campaign. Trivett said she “felt like Santa Claus all afternoon.”

Watch for notices of Combined Campaign events in your location. They are both fun and informative! ■



(left) Marilyn Barnes and Wanda Echard, both from DHHS Human Resources, speak with Lorelle Schaub, a development associate with PlayWorks of Durham.

(below) Phyllis Fulton, from Division of Social Services, left, and Janice Warren, DIRM with Secretary Al Delia, center.



Evelis Pena-Vargas (dressed as a care bear), from Division of Medical Assistance, spoke with Secretary Al Delia during the SECC kickoff for DHHS.

– Photos by Jim Jones

Open Enrollment for NC Flex Oct. 1-26



It's annual open enrollment time for NC Flex, and this year core accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage is offered at no charge. Open enrollment runs Oct. 1-26, 2012. For full details and to enroll, visit the website: www.ncflex.org.

The AD&D coverage can provide the following:

- A benefit if you suffer a loss as the result of a covered accident while you are insured under the plan.
- A benefit if you suffer certain disabling injuries while covered.

The AD&D coverage is effective 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It includes accidents on or off the job while traveling by car, plane, train, boat or any other public or private form of transportation, except any aircraft that is owned or leased by or on behalf of the State of North Carolina or aircraft being used for or in connection with fire fighting, exploration, pipe or power line inspection or aerial photography. This coverage is in addition to any other coverage you have under any other insurance policy.

Core AD&D coverage is free of charge, but must be elected during the annual enrollment or through the new hire process. The principal awardable sum is \$10,000 and employees also receive Worldwide Emergency Travel Assistance Services.

These services are provided by Assist America, Inc. to arrange and pay for the following when a medical emergency happens more than 100 miles from your home or in a foreign country:

- **Medical consultation, evaluation and referral**
- **Hospital admission guarantee**
- **Emergency medical evacuation**
- **Critical care monitoring**
- **Medically supervised repatriation**
- **Prescription assistance**
- **Emergency message transmission**
- **Transportation to join patient**
- **Care for minor children**
- **Return of mortal remains**
- **Emergency trauma counseling**
- **Lost luggage or document assistance**
- **Interpreter & legal referrals**
- **Pre-trip information**

Worldwide Emergency Travel Assistance services are provided by Assist America, Inc. and are available to only you. Trips exceeding 90 days from legal residence are excluded (unless separate Expatriate coverage is purchased). Call 800-257-0930 for more information.

Other exclusions, limitations and prior notice requirements may apply, and service features, terms and eligibility criteria are subject to change. The service is not valid after termination of the coverage and may be withdrawn at any time. ■

Contact your local human resources office if you have any questions.

Delegation visits N.C. to understand rights for the disabled



Visitors from Palestinian Territories and DHHS leaders paused outside the Adams Building on the Dix Campus following a session where information on the rights of people with disabilities was shared. – Photo by Jim Jones

DHHS Deputy Secretary Maria Spaulding hosted a delegation from the Palestinian Territories on Sept. 10 and 11 through the International Visitor Leadership Program under the auspices of the Department of State.

The guests traveled to Raleigh and the Research Triangle Park to study the topics of disability rights and disabled women and children's domestic violence issues and met with DHHS leaders to discuss these topics and learn from their expertise on these issues. The local sponsor for the visit was the Triangle International Affairs Council (IAC). ■

Congressional aides visit Disability Determination Services



Congressional liaisons visit DDS

(Left to right) Nancy Meek, James Webb, Rebecca Potts, Rebecca Briles, Susan Hatfield, Nancy Mazza and Janine Osborne.

North Carolina Disability Determination Services hosted an educational meeting Sept. 13 with liaisons from several congressional offices across North Carolina.

Visitors included Susan Hatfield with Sen. Richard Burr's Winston-Salem office; Nancy Meek with Rep. Patrick T. McHenry's office; James Webb with Rep. Virginia Foxx's office; and four representing Rep. Howard Coble's offices: Rebecca Potts, Greensboro, Rebecca Briles, Asheboro, Nancy Mazza, High Point, and Janine Osborne, Graham.

The liaisons coordinated with DDS congressional inquiry liaison Betty Emerson, who hosted and shared information in a morning session about the DDS process for handling congressional inquiries. DDS staff solicited feedback from the visitors to better understand how they operate.

During the afternoon session DDS Director Mike Kaess provided visitors with a brief presentation that demonstrated the larger perspective of what the NCDDS does and how well the work is done. He placed a strong emphasis on the DDS success

in recent years, stating his belief that this is mainly due to the level of communication, interaction and partnership between the NCDDS, the Social Security Administration field offices, the SSA area director's office and his staff, and parent agencies, DHHS and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. ■

ACCOLADES

Accolades highlights special recognition of DHHS employees and facilities from outside agencies, stakeholders, partners and peer groups. Interested in sending a contribution? See instructions at the end of this column.

The Division of Social Services was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for excellence in quality control (QC) in its food and nutrition services program (food stamps). North Carolina was one of eight states to meet a required 98 percent case completion rate for FY 2011. North Carolina's rate was 98.75 percent, the fourth highest in the nation.

Quality Assurance staff in DSS review a sample of approximately 1,100 county DSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) cases each year as mandated by federal regulations. Staff interview the recipients and verify the information they provide to determine the accuracy of their benefit.

DSS also was recognized as a "Data Champion" for its FY 2011 **Community Services Block Grant Information Systems Survey** database by the National Association for State Community Service Programs. One state in each region was recognized for database completeness, timeliness, responsiveness and memo cleanliness as part of the CSBG grant requirement.

The North Carolina Central Cancer Registry (CCR), part of the Division of Public Health, has been recognized by the Centers for Disease Control for meeting national standards for data completeness, timeliness and quality. The CCR collects, processes, and analyzes data on all cancer cases diagnosed among North Carolina residents.

Felipe Cabrera, a program assistant in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services who provides Spanish language outreach services for Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living clients, is honored this month by Univision 40 as an "Orgullo de Nuestra Comunidad," or the pride of our community.

Cabrera learned of his selection and was interviewed on-camera last month. The tribute to his service is airing on Univision 40 in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 17 to Oct. 14. Cabrera frequently drives across central North Carolina to meet with the Spanish speaking community to provide information and referral for eligible Spanish speaking North Carolinians.

continued on page 15

ACCOLADES, continued

Cynthia Speight has been promoted as the assistant director of the Division of Services for the Blind effective Oct. 1.

Speight started working for DSB in December 2000 as the independent living rehabilitation program specialist and served in this capacity almost nine years before being promoted to chief of rehabilitation programs and facilities in the fall of 2009. Prior to joining DSB, she worked for the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired for 13 years and held the positions of vocational rehabilitation counselor, assistant regional manager and regional manager.

The Radiation Protection Section's Mammography Program recently received the highest rating possible during an annual audit by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review the program for compliance with the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) rules and program expectations. Congress passed the MQSA in 1992 to assure high-quality mammography for early breast cancer detection, which can lead to early treatment, a range of treatment options, and increased chances of survival.

A federal auditor spends one day with each inspector in the field as they perform a mammography inspection. The audit may include a visit to headquarters to review additional records, procedures and verify continuing education of the inspectors has been met.

"This is a very comprehensive evaluation," said Jenny Rollins, RPS radiation compliance branch manager. "We are extremely pleased with the outcome of this audit and the performance of the MQSA inspectors. This demonstrates the dedication of these inspectors to the Mammography Program and their continued aspiration to improve the standards of care in the healthcare facilities throughout North Carolina. MQSA is a small part of their responsibilities as Health Physicists in the Radiation Compliance Section, but a big part of why they love what they do." ■

If you or someone you work with has received special recognition, let us hear about it. We need details of the recognition, and how to reach the employee and the recognizing organization. Send to Jim.Jones@dhhs.nc.gov.

DHHS Employee Update is published monthly by the Office of Public Affairs for employees of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. Please send your comments and story ideas to: Jim.Jones@dhhs.nc.gov, or by mail to DHHS Office of Public Affairs, 2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2001

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